

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 01206 052135Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 MCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
AGRE-00 /101 W

-----024798 061008Z /16

R 052020Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6254
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

UNCLAS GUAYAQUIL 1206

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB CPRS EC
SUBJ: UNLAWFUL SEIZURE STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY OFFICES

1. ON JUNE 27 AT 9:30 A.M. ABOUT FIFTY PART-TIME, OCCASIONAL STEVEDORES USED BY STANDARD FRUIT CO. (SFC) FOR LOADING BANANAS AT GUAYAQUIL'S PORT SEIZED THE COMPANY'S OFFICES IN DOWNTOWN GUAYAQUIL, IMPRISONING ALL THE EMPLOYEES INCLUDING THE GENERAL MANAGER EDUARDO DE LA ESPRIELLA, EDGAR OLESON, LABOR RELATIONS MANAGER AND COMPANY'S LABOR ATTORNEY, DR. FERNANDO TORRES TRUJILLO.

2. DR. TORRES TALKED WITH THE MEN TO ASCERTAIN THEIR DEMANDS WHICH BOILED DOWN ESSENTIALLY TO A LARGE SUM OF MONEY TO GET THE MEN TO QUIT THE PREMISES. THE COMPANY HAS A LABOR CONTRACT WITH ITS REGULAR STEVEDORES AND THIS CONTRACT WAS NOT IN QUESTION SINCE THE SQUATTERS WERE NOT A PART OF THE CONTRACT. THE SQUATTERS WANTED TO BECOME A PART OF THE CONTRACT AND BE CONSIDERED REGULAR SFC WORKERS, TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF THE ATTRACTIVE LABOR AGREEMENT.

3. DR. TORRES WAS PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE PREMISES TOGETHER WITH SOME OF THE CLERICAL WORKERS. NONE OF THE MANAGEMENT TEAM WAS PERMITTED TO DEPART. TORRES TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO OBTAIN THE INTERVENTION OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAYAS WHO SAID IT WAS A "LABOR UNCLASSIFIED

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MATTER" AND THUS NOT HIS PROBLEM; THE INTENDENTE GENERAL OF POLICE SAID NOT HIS PROBLEM BUT HE DID ASK THE NATIONAL POLICE TO GO TO THE BUILDING TO KEEP ORDER BUT NOT FORCE THE UNLAWFUL SQUATTERS FROM THE PREMISES.

4. ABOUT 9:00 P.M. IN EVENING OF THE 27TH THE REST OF THE COMPANY WORKERS, INCLUDING MANAGEMENT WERE PERMITTED TO LEAVE. THE OFFICE

HIJACKERS CONTINUED TO OCCUPY THE PREMISES UNTIL FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 4 DAYS LATER. ACCORDING TO THE GEN. MGR. THE OFFICES WERE A SHAMBLES AND ONE TYPEWRITER WAS STOLEN. THE COMPANY CONCEDED NOTHING TO THE HIJACKERS BUT LOST CONSIDERABLY SINCE BANANA LOADINGS WERE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. STANDARD EXPORTS OVER 25 PERCENT OF ECUADORS BANANAS.

5. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THESE DOCK WORKERS, HOPED TO HOLD-UP SFC FOR RANSOM IN ORDER TO QUIT THE PREMISES: ALLEDGED LABOR GRIVANCES WERE A SHAM IN ORDER TO GET GOVERNMENT KEEP HANDS OFF THIS MATTER UNTIL SFC AGREED PAY SUM OF MONEY TO QUIT PREMISES. EVEN ILLEGAL, WILDCAT STRIKES SETTLED IN THIS FASHION BY LABOR COURTS REQUIRING COMPANYS PAY AT LEAST HALF OF SUM DEMANDED. ONLY THIS TIME THE DOCK WORKERS WERE ILL-ADVISED BY THEIR LEADERS; THEY GOT NOTHING.

6. STANDARD FRUIT NOT ASKING ANY ACTION BE TAKEN BY USG.
BISHTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR DISORDERS, SQUATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GUAYAQ01206
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780277-0160
Format: TEL
From: GUAYAQUIL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780796/aaaadcqg.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9c13fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2117986
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNLAWFUL SEIZURE STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY OFFICES
TAGS: ELAB, CPRS, EC, STANDARD FRUIT CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9c13fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014